



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 March 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- The Chicago Sun–Times reports an intoxicated man ran onto the tarmac at Midway Airport over the weekend and forced the brief closing of a runway — prompting an investigation into the security breach. (See item [13](#))
- The USA TODAY reports the U.S. government, bracing for the possibility that migrating birds could carry a deadly strain of bird flu to North America, plans to test nearly eight times as many wild birds this year as have been tested in the past decade. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 08, Reuters* — **U.S. oil supplies jump to seven-year high.** U.S. commercial crude supplies shot to the highest level in nearly seven years last week on sluggish refinery use and high imports, the government said on Wednesday, March 8. U.S. oil stocks jumped 6.8 million barrels in the week ended March 3 to 335.1 million barrels, or 10 percent higher than last year, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Refineries operated at 83 percent of capacity, down 2.2 percentage points on the week and a slump of 6.5 percentage points from the same time last year. As a result of the low output, gasoline supplies fell for the first time in 10 weeks. But even with the slip, gasoline supplies remain above the upper end of the average

range, according to the EIA. Refiner maintenance is high this winter as many plants catch up with work that had been delayed by a wave of hurricanes last year. At least three big coker units were set to restart in early March, including Exxon Mobil's coker at Baytown, Texas, and Valero's cokers in Corpus Christi, Texas and Aruba, according to a Reuters survey.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-energy-eia-supply.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

2. *March 08, Reuters* — **Oil falls to \$61 as OPEC keeps output high.** Oil prices slid on Wednesday, March 8, as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to keep output close to full throttle and Iran, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, reiterated it would not stop crude exports over its nuclear row with the West. U.S. crude fell 63 cents to \$60.96 a barrel. OPEC President Nigeria confirmed the cartel had agreed to leave its oil output ceiling at 28 million barrels per day, unchanged since July 2005. "The markets have been reacting to news on Iran, but the physical oil markets have been fairly relaxed so I'm not surprised to have seen them fall...The bottom line is that in both crude and petroleum product markets we are well supplied and we are in the slack demand season," said Mike Wittner, global head of energy market research at investment bank Calyon.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-markets-oil.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *March 08, Times Union (NY)* — **Gas leak at school sends eight to hospital.** Tuesday, March 7, a gas leak, believed to be caused by gas jets for burners in a chemistry classroom, forced the evacuation of Saratoga Springs High School in New York and sent two teachers and six students to Saratoga Hospital.

Source: <http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=458288&category=SARATOGA&BCCode=&newsdate=3/8/2006>

4. *March 07, Associated Press* — **Tanker explodes on Florida highway; several injured.** A fuel truck on U.S. 27 near Belle Glade, FL, exploded as 13 tractor-trailers and several cars slammed into each other on a fog-bound highway early Tuesday, March 7. The four-lane highway was temporarily closed in both directions near the Palm Beach-Broward county line.

Source: <http://www.beaufortgazette.com/24hour/nation/story/3220899p-11943908c.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *March 07, Defense News* — **RAND study names Airbus, Boeing candidates for U.S. Air Force tanker.** A study on the U.S. Air Force's need for aerial refueling tankers has recommended that the Pentagon consider buying a new fleet of medium or large airplanes based on successful Airbus or Boeing designs. The study, "Analysis of Alternatives KC-135 Recapitalization," was conducted by RAND for the U.S. Air Force. The Pentagon released an executive summary of the study Tuesday, March 7. The study ruled out the following options as

not cost-effective: buying smaller aircraft, developing a brand new version of airplanes for refueling needs, getting used aircraft, unmanned tankers, stealthy tankers and outsourcing the refueling job to private firms.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1582219&C=america>

6. *March 07, Washington Technology* — **Defense officials: Acquisition process too cumbersome.** Acquisition reform is something the Department of Defense (DoD) has been talking about for at least two decades, said Defense Information Systems Agency CIO John Garing. Cultural challenges are what are preventing DoD from speeding up its acquisition processes. In addition, the department expects its agencies to lay out a program's requirements years before the program is even developed, Garing added.

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/defense/28136-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *March 08, Finextra* — **Bank of America introduces new online banking alerts.** Bank of America (BoA) is introducing a new alert service that will enable its 15 million Web banking customers to receive account information over their mobile handsets, PDAs or via e-mail. BoA says the 18 new alerts are being introduced to help its Web banking customers detect suspicious activity and fraud. Notifications are sent immediately about changes in sensitive data such as passwords or customer information. These alerts are sent automatically, though customers can choose to turn them off. Customers can set dollar limits to determine when they would be told about potentially suspicious activities on their debit or credit cards and can also choose to receive a daily e-mail about available account balances to help prevent fees. "We're giving customers more ways to detect fraud and keep an eye on their accounts," says Sanjay Gupta, e-Commerce executive, BoA. Last year BoA launched a two-factor authentication service to its Internet banking customers in the U.S. and also introduced an anti-phishing toolbar designed to help customers identify fraudulent Websites.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15022>

8. *March 08, Channel Register (UK)* — **Phishing scammers aim to outpace site shutdowns.** Cyber crooks have developed new techniques in response to increasingly aggressive moves to identify and shut down known phishing sites. In a move designed to ensure potential phishing victims always link to a live Website, scammers have developed so-called "smart redirection" attacks. These involve creating a number of similar phishing Websites based at different locations. Bogus e-mails that form the basis of phishing attacks contain URLs that direct the victim to a single IP address, which hosts the so-called 'smart redirector.' When the potential victim clicks on the link, the redirector checks all related phishing Websites, identifying which sites are still live before redirecting the user to one of them. So far two attacks on two different banks, one based in the UK and the other in Canada, have been detected.

Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/03/08/smart_redirect_p_hish_attack/

9. *March 08, TechWeb News* — **Researchers terminate sites selling Trojans.** Several Websites selling made-to-order Trojan horses to hackers have been shut down, the two cooperating

security companies who led the investigation said Wednesday, March 8. RSA Security and Panda Software collaborated in the effort to identify, locate, and shutter five sites. Three were marketing à la carte Trojans for launching targeted identity theft attacks against users of specific financial institutions, while two were sites where the buyers could monitor the infections the malware caused. Once installed on users' PCs, the Trojans would return data to the hackers, including systems' IP addresses, and bank or brokerage passwords.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/181501963;jsessionid=JUPKEINQNRXHEQSNDGCKHOCJUMKJVN>

10. *March 07, Wisconsin Technology Network News* — **Credit unions face identity management issues, report says.** Credit unions could take better advantage of available technology for identity management, says a study released by the University of Wisconsin E-Business Consortium. David Meunier, vice president and chief information security officer for CUNA Mutual, said credit unions need to make sure they can keep track of who may interact with digital resources such as Websites. According to the report, credit unions realize that the risks of poor identity management outweigh the costs of implementation. But problems remain: manual processes are still being used where automated ones are available, high-level governance bodies are making decisions without the involvement of IT staff, and individual users are not protecting their passwords or other authorization.

Identity Management At Credit Unions report: <http://www.uwebc.org/docs/CUReport2006.pdf>

Source: <http://wistechnology.com/article.php?id=2756>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *March 08, Associated Press* — **Some Northwest ground workers reject pay cut contract.**

Baggage handlers tried to get Northwest Airlines back to the bargaining table by voting down its proposed pay cut and authorizing a strike. Northwest said after the vote Tuesday, March 7, that it would restart the bankruptcy court process in which it's seeking to reject its union contract with those workers. The rejected contract would have imposed an 11.5 percent pay cut and numerous work rule changes on baggage handlers who made roughly \$20 an hour before Northwest filed for bankruptcy protection September 14. Temporary pay cuts of 19 percent will remain in effect. If it improves its offer to baggage handlers, it could entice pilots and flight attendants to reject their agreements and hold out for better offers, said University of Minnesota labor relations professor John Budd.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-03-08-nwa-labor_x.htm

12. *March 08, USA TODAY* — **Porous border drains county finances.** The inability to slow illegal immigration from Mexico is fueling a financial crisis in the 24 counties along the 1,951-mile Southwest border, according to a new study. It says the counties are struggling to fund law enforcement, health programs and other necessities because they are spending millions of dollars a year to care for illegal immigrants. In 2004, there were 1.14 million arrests along the border that stretches from California to Texas, the Department of Homeland Security says. That was up 26 percent from the year before. The jump in arrests has come to symbolize how localities have been left with much of the bill for border security, according to a study by the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) released on Wednesday, March 8, by the

U.S./Mexico Border Counties Coalition. Dennis Soden, executive director of the Institute for Policy and Economic Development at UTEP, says the border situation "creates a burden on the court system, the jail system and the prison system. "The fact that the border can't be controlled creates a law enforcement problem that falls on the local jurisdictions," he says.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-03-07-immigrants-he_alth_x.htm

13. *March 08, Chicago Sun-Times* — **Security at Midway breached.** An intoxicated man sneaked onto the tarmac at Midway Airport over the weekend and forced the brief closing of a runway -- prompting an investigation into the security breach, city officials said Tuesday, March 7. Mark Mechniek, 22, was charged with reckless conduct and trespassing to airport property after passing through a security gate at 55th and Laramie on Saturday afternoon, March 5, officials said. Investigators think he walked or ran through the gate undetected while a vehicle was leaving. A Southwest Airlines pilot spotted Mechniek standing between two runways and alerted the control tower. Mechniek was arrested six minutes later. Runway 4 Right was closed during the security breach, said Chicago Aviation Department spokesperson Wendy Abrams. A city Aviation Department security officer posted at the gate during the breach has been placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation, Abrams said.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-midway08.html>

14. *March 07, Associated Press* — **Officials show off new port security program.** On Tuesday, March 7, Port Authority and New Jersey officials said new technology is being tested to help safeguard one of the nation's busiest ports. The pilot program is being tested at the Port of New York and New Jersey. Different technology is being used at ports in Los Angeles, Seattle and Tacoma, WA. Cigar-box sized "black boxes" will hang over the doors of about two dozen cargo containers as part of a pilot program to help monitor the security of containers as they travel international waters to ports in New York and New Jersey. The Department of Homeland Security program is aimed at helping to identify vulnerabilities in a shipping system that brings more than 15 million of containers through U.S. ports every year, and to look at technology that could enhance security. The first 25 containers being used in the program have already left Germany and Jordan and are expected to arrive in the area next week. Sensors in the "black boxes" can determine whether doors have been opened, light has entered, or radiation or carbon monoxide is present. The pilot program will be expanded to about 1,000 containers.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--p-ortcargo0307mar07.0.1983591.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

15. *March 04, Philadelphia Inquirer* — **Rerouting of region's air traffic is urged.** A group of regional business leaders urged the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday, March 3, to adopt a new air-traffic routing system for the Philadelphia and New York areas to alleviate chronic flight delays at Philadelphia International Airport. The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's CEO Council for Growth said building airport runways wouldn't be enough to reduce delays without the FAA adopting procedures to speed up flights once they leave the ground. Philadelphia International, which handles more takeoffs and landings than any of the New York area's three major airports, has ranked last or close to it the last four years in on-time airline departures and arrivals. Philadelphia had 535,666 flights in and out in 2005, making it the ninth-busiest airport in the United States and the world, according to statistics released by the Airports Council International trade group.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/business/14013912.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *March 08, KOLD News 13 (AZ)* — **Tucson post office evacuated in drill.** The threat of anthrax attacks through the mail is so serious, postal officials are taking no chances. "Back in 2001, as folks might remember, we did have anthrax unfortunately enter into the mail system, and two postal employees back east lost their lives because of that," said Peter Hass, with the U.S. Postal Service. Last summer, a biohazard detection system was installed at the Tucson,, AZ, mail processing facility as a safeguard. Tuesday, March 7, they conducted Tucson's first biohazard emergency drill in the postal facility. Once the detection system picks up a trace of biohazardous chemicals, like anthrax, on a piece of mail, the alarm sounds. That prompts workers and customers to evacuate the building, as the facility goes into lock-down. During Tuesday's drill, nearly one hundred employees filed outside toward the facility's back lot. There, they took a head count to make sure no one was left behind. Had this been a real emergency instead of a drill, the workers would be have been decontaminated at the scene and would have received antibiotics on-site.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=4600369>

17. *March 02, Reuters* — **Computer woes briefly hobble U.S. Postal Service.** Glitches in the computer network that links U.S. post offices caused delays and limited services across the United States for several hours on Thursday, March 2, said Sharon Mayall, a U.S. Postal Service spokesperson in San Francisco. The 37,000 U.S. post offices rely on centralized systems that process credit card payments and automate services such as weighing letters and packages. "We had a network issue that caused some system freezing," said Mayall.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-03-03T013008Z_01_N02419544_RTRUKOC_0_US-POSTALSERVICE.xml&archived=False

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Agriculture Sector

18. *March 08, Associated Press* — **Compromise on chronic wasting disease rule.** The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has reached a compromise with deer farmers in a dispute over an emergency rule aimed at preventing the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). The DNR agreed to rescind a double-fencing requirement and to lift a ban on the transport of farm-raised deer and elk within the state. The agency also agreed to a monitoring program that would be administered by state agriculture officials. A ban on importing out-of-state deer and exporting deer to other states remains in effect.

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>

Source: <http://www.woay.com/news.cfm?showarticle=E53E7572-1539-4CD7-888CC689DB93B95B>

19.

March 07, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service — **Availability of draft citrus health response plan announced.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Tuesday, March 7, posted for comment a draft citrus health response plan, which marks the first step toward a new approach for sustaining Florida's citrus industry in light of recent realities about citrus canker spread and other disease threats. The draft plan would establish an area-wide compliance program and identify minimum standards for implementing appropriate survey, diagnostics, and mitigation measures to reduce the proliferation and spread of citrus canker and other diseases of regulatory significance. In addition to sustaining Florida's citrus industry, the goal of the plan is also to safeguard other citrus producing states against the spread of citrus canker and citrus greening, which was recently identified in Florida. The 2004 and 2005 hurricanes spread citrus canker so extensively that it was determined on January 10, 2006, that eradication was no longer a scientifically feasible option. At that time, the established program was modified to stop the practice of destroying trees within 1,900 feet of an infected tree. Since eradication is no longer possible, tree removal is no longer mandatory, whether or not the tree is infected. Draft plan: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pdmp/citrushealth/> Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/03/citrusplan_ppq.shtml

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Food Sector

20. *March 08, USAGNet* — **South Korea sets beef import rules for U.S.** In a follow-up that South Korea reached with the U.S. over the resumption of U.S. beef imports, South Korean health experts drew up a list of U.S. beef cuts that the country will accept once it resumes importing U.S. beef. South Korea, along with approximately 35 other countries, closed its market to imported U.S. beef in late 2003 after the U.S. confirmed its first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. On February 13, 2006, the U.S. and South Korea reached an agreement in principle on the resumption of U.S. beef imports. The list of banned beef includes specified risk materials and bone parts, including bones that are attached to meat. Other cuts include the diaphragm, tongue, cheek meat, offal, and hanging tender, as well as all forms of mechanically recovered meat — ground meat and processed meat products. In addition, all cattle butchered for export to South Korea must be younger than 30 months of age, and South Korean inspectors must approve all slaughter and processing plants. Inspections will take place March 12 through 25 with the first shipments to be sold to consumers in early April. Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=345&yr=2006>

21. *March 07, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Importation of peppers allowed from certain Central American countries.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Tuesday, March 7, announced that it has amended its fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of certain types of peppers from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua without treatment. To be eligible for importation, the peppers must be grown in approved production sites that are registered with the national plant protection organization of the exporting country. The peppers are also subject to pre-harvest inspection, trapping, and shipping procedures. These conditions are designed to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests, such as the Mediterranean fruit fly, into the U.S. Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/03/import_pep.p.shtml

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

22. *March 08, Associated Press* — **China sees tenth human death from bird flu.** China on Wednesday, March 8, reported its tenth human death from bird flu, a 9-year-old girl in the country's southeast. The girl died Monday, March 6, in the southeastern coastal province of Zhejiang, the Ministry of Health said in a statement. The cause of the girl's infection was under investigation, but she visited the home of relatives whose chickens died while she was there, the ministry said.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/entrepreneurs/feeds/ap/2006/03/07/ap25_78010.html

23. *March 08, Agence France–Presse* — **Albania confirms its first case of H5N1 bird flu.** Albania said the highly pathogenic strain of H5N1 bird flu had been detected in a chicken in the country's south, confirming the Balkan state's first case of the strain of the virus that can kill humans. The H5N1 virus was discovered in a domestic chicken found dead on February 28 in the village of Cukes, near Saranda, a coastal town about 31 miles north of the Greek border. Health authorities have begun an operation to disinfect the area, around which a two-mile quarantine zone had been established in a bid to prevent the spread of the virus. Tests would be carried out on some 1,000 poultry birds near Cukes, where almost 70 chickens were suspected of having the virus. H5N1 has been detected in a number of countries surrounding Albania, including Greece, Romania, and Serbia.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060308/hl_afp/healthflualbania_060308120030: ylt=ArdS0MxmDcmKfHIdDgcxMr6JOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

24. *March 07, USA TODAY* — **With avian flu spreading, U.S. to expand its testing.** The U.S. government, bracing for the possibility that migrating birds could carry a deadly strain of bird flu to North America, plans to test nearly eight times as many wild birds this year as have been tested in the past decade. The U.S. Geological Survey is testing live migratory birds and those killed by hunters. Starting in April, samples from 75,000 to 100,000 birds will be tested for the virus, mainly in Alaska, as part of a joint effort of the departments of Agriculture and Interior, along with state Fish & Wildlife agencies. That's a jump from the 12,000 birds tested since 1996. The expanded program, which will include birds in the Pacific islands and on the West Coast, reflects growing concern that the virus, highly pathogenic A (H5N1), which has spread across Asia and Europe, could arrive in North America as soon as this spring and be carried into the western continental U.S. by fall.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-03-07-bird-migration_x.htm

25.

March 05, Boston Globe (MA) — **Flu fears spur research into antivirals.** Top scientists at federal health institutes, universities, and drug companies report that they are witnessing a surge of interest in finding treatments for viral infections — fueled in part by fears of a global flu epidemic. Once, viral disease researchers rarely heard from drug development companies. Now, scientists say, they regularly get calls from companies hoping to forge partnerships in the quest to discover antiviral medicines. For decades, medicines to fight viral infections have been a neglected aspect of drug research. While viruses and bacteria both cause enormous human suffering, it's always been a lot easier to find bacteria-slaying antibiotics like penicillin, because they occur naturally wherever bacteria live. Antivirals have to be made in the lab, and scientists have to be careful not to cause collateral damage.

Source: http://www.boston.com/yourlife/health/diseases/articles/2006/03/05/flu_fears_spur_research_into_virus_killers/

26. *March 03, Brookhaven National Laboratory* — New method for identifying microbes.

Scientists at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory have developed a new, high-throughput technique for identifying the many species of microorganisms living in an unknown "microbial community." The method has many applications — from assessing the microbes present in environmental samples and identifying species useful for cleaning up contamination to identifying pathogens and distinguishing harmless bacteria from potential bioterror weapons. Growing cultures of microbes to identify species is slow and error prone as the culture conditions often screen out important members of the community. Sequencing entire genomes, while highly specific and informative, would be too labor intensive and costly. So scientists have been searching for ways to identify key segments of genetic code that are short enough to be sequenced rapidly and can readily distinguish among species. The Brookhaven team has developed just such a technique, which they call "single point genome signature tagging." Using enzymes that recognize specific sequences in the genetic code, they chop the microbial genomes into small segments that contain identifier genes common to all microbial species, plus enough unique genetic information to tell the microbes apart.

Source: http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/PR_display.asp?prID=06-21

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 08, TelecomWeb Network* — Public-safety group sketches enhanced 911 blueprint.

A major group of U.S. public-safety professionals issued a report on the need for next-generation emergency communications in this country with what it characterized as a blueprint for deploying new enhanced 911 systems in the future. During its annual meeting in Washington, DC, the National Emergency Number Association released its "Next Generation 911: Responding to an Urgent Need for Change." The report, among other things, stresses the need for 911 call-handling operations to rapidly adopt new technology that supports services

and devices connected to such emerging communications fields as mobile text messaging.

Source: <http://www.telecomweb.com/news/1141766930.htm>

28. *March 08, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-442T: Hurricane Katrina: Preliminary Observations Regarding Preparedness and Response to Catastrophic Disasters (Testimony).** The size and strength of Hurricane Katrina resulted in one of the largest natural disasters in our nation's history. Hurricane Katrina raised major questions about our nation's readiness and ability to respond to catastrophic disasters. Hurricane Rita increased demands on an already stressed response and recovery effort by all levels of government. The two hurricanes provided a sobering picture of the overwhelming strains on response and recovery if there are back-to-back catastrophic disasters in the same area. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has a large body of ongoing work on a range of issues relating to all phases of the preparation, response, recovery, and rebuilding efforts related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. GAO is making several recommendations to help reform the nation's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery system. For example, these include clarifying the roles and responsibilities of key federal officials, clarifying various aspects of the National Response Plan, and strengthening planning and response capabilities.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06442thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-442T>
29. *March 07, Washington Technology* — **District moves toward wireless first-responder system.** Under plans that have been in development for nine months, wireless broadband capabilities for public safety are extending to the Washington, DC region. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia counties and localities, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, federal and military offices and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of National Capital Region Coordination are working on three new regional IT initiatives for public safety: a wireless broadband network, a wired fiber optics network of networks for exchanging data, and a data exchange hub, said Robert LeGrande II, deputy chief technology officer for the district. The region expects to roll out the first phase of the new interoperable data system in December.
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/homeland/28141-1.html
30. *March 07, Roanoke Daily Herald (NC)* — **Mock disaster drill tests North Carolina's preparedness.** Nearly 140 Halifax County, NC, fire, rescue and law enforcement personnel received coordinated training Sunday, March 5, during a mock disaster drill outside of Enfield. The scenario was two planes colliding about five miles from the site of what will be the new Halifax-Northampton County Regional Airport. Lt. Col. Anthony Biondo Jr., a search and rescue strike team member with the North Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), said CAP used its plane to test a new surveillance camera and to practice routine surveillance to be prepared for an actual emergency. Incident command using the chain of command worked well, said Ronnie Locke, chief of the Enfield Volunteer Fire Department. He believed one of the weaknesses was the need for more communication and communication equipment.
Source: <http://www.rrdailyherald.com/articles/2006/03/07/news/news1.txt>
31. *March 06, Derrick (PA)* — **Five-county terrorist drill conducted in Pennsylvania.** A mock terrorist cell Monday, March 6, created a hostage situation in Crawford County, placed a bomb in a vehicle in Venango County and conducted a suicide bombing in Erie during a drill to test

the of emergency operations in five Pennsylvania counties. The weapons of mass destruction counter-terrorism task force, formed in 1997 to help communities plan and prepare for a terrorist attack, covers Crawford, Erie, Forest, Venango and Warren counties. "What we're trying to do is we're testing the inter-operability and how they, the emergency agency centers, communicate, as well as the hospitals and their emergency operations also," said Bob Ward, training manager for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Emergency Response Group 2.

Source: <http://www.thederrick.com/stories/03072006-2016.shtml>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *March 08, IDG News Service* — **Infopath hit with first virus, F-Secure says.** Security companies have reported what may be the first virus to target InfoPath, Microsoft's product for sharing information in forms using the Extensible Markup Language format. F-Secure said the proof-of-concept Trojan horse virus, dubbed Icabdi.A, appears to do little harm but is of interest because it is the first to target InfoPath. Symantec said the virus has not been widely distributed and rated the threat as "low."
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/03/08/76208_HNinfopathvirus_1.html
33. *March 08, IDG News Service* — **China issues e-mail rules to fight spam.** China's Ministry of Information Industry has published a set of regulations that govern e-mail services and include several provisions intended to cut down on the amount of spam that Chinese Internet users find in their in-box. The new rules go into effect on Thursday, March 30.
The e-mail regulations, in Chinese, can be found on the Website of the Internet Society of China's Anti-Spam Center: <http://www.anti-spam.cn/doc/glbfdoc>.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/03/08/76197_HNchinaemail_1.html
34. *March 08, Reuters* — **Famed "computer terrorist" teaches anti-hacking.** "Computer terrorist" Kevin Mitnick is one of the world's most famous computer hackers. These days, Mitnick, from the United States, travels the world teaching companies how to guard against people just like him. He argues that while sophisticated technology can help keep networks clean from viruses, it is useless if hackers can con a company's employees into handing over passwords by posing, for example, as colleagues. "Hackers find the hole in the human firewall," Mitnick told an information technology security conference on Wednesday, March 8, in Johannesburg, South Africa. "What's the biggest hole? It's the illusion of invulnerability."
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=technologyNews&storyID=2006-03-08T122113Z_01_L08565743_RTRUKOC_0_US-HACKER.xml
35. *March 07, Newsfactor Magazine* — **Scientists: Intense sunspots could take out communications systems.** Activity on the sun's surface will intensify in the coming years and could wreak havoc on terrestrial communications systems, according to scientists using innovative computer-modeling techniques. The next sunspot cycle will be 30 percent to 50 percent stronger than the previous one, and might begin next year, according to scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO. What is significant about the most recent projections from NCAR is that the 50 percent predicted increase in solar storms

could cause changes in satellite orbits, disrupt cellular communications and GPS systems, and completely knock out power grids. Researchers are not predicting the occurrence of a single event, but rather an active cycle of activity.

Source: http://www.newsfactor.com/news/Scientists-Predict-Intense-Solar-Flares/story.xhtml?story_id=020000V3SX3W

36. *March 07, CNET News* — **Another Mac OS X hack challenge launched.** Dave Schroeder, a senior systems engineer at the University of Wisconsin, launched his contest on Monday, March 6, claiming that the first Mac OS X hacking challenge was too easy. In the first challenge, an anonymous hacker claimed he was able to compromise OS X within 30 minutes using an undisclosed vulnerability. However, attackers were given user-level access to the system, rather than being shut out completely. In his challenge, Schroeder is asking hackers to alter the home page hosted on a Mac Mini that is running Mac OS X 10.4.5 with the latest security updates. The system has two local accounts, and has SHH and HTTP open -- "a lot more than most Mac OS X machines will ever have open," Schroeder said on his Website. "It has been pretty surprising how well the little Mac Mini has stood up. It has taken a pounding," Schroeder said in a telephone interview.

Source: http://news.com.com/Another+Mac+OS+X+hack+challenge+launched/2100-7349_3-6047038.html?tag=nefd.top

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code for a vulnerability in Apple Safari Browser. The Apple Safari browser will automatically open "safe" file types, such as pictures, movies, and archive files. A system may be compromised if a user accesses an HTML document that references a specially crafted archive file. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user.

More information can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#999708 – Apple Safari may automatically execute arbitrary shell commands
<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/999708>

Although there is limited information on how to fully defend against this exploit, US-CERT recommends the following mitigation:

Disable the option "Open 'safe' files after downloading," as specified in the Securing Your Web Browser document.
http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#sgeneral

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 25 (smtp), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 41170 (----), 139 (netbios-ssn), 80 (www), 42011 (----), 32774 (sometimes-rpc11), 3445 (----)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

Nothing to report.

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